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BUSINESS REVIEW

DECEMBER 1957

Manufacturing in New England

PART II — Employment Cycles in New England They Are Longer and Deeper Than U. S. Cycles!

During two of the three recession periods since World War II, declines in manufacturing employment in New England have been longer and more extensive than in the rest of the nation. As business activity levels off again, New Englanders want to know what to expect during recession periods. Which industries are most variable during business cycles? Which ones are becoming more and which less variable? Is industrial diversification a good thing? This article attempts to answer these questions by tracing the timing and severity of employment changes in New England and United States manufacturing industries from 1947 to 1956.

It has become generally acceptable to characterize the 1948-1949 drop as an inventory recession. The 1951 "recession" was barely perceptible in total manufacturing employment, since it was confined to "soft-goods" industries, mostly textiles and shoes. The sharp cut-back in Federal Government spending, mostly in defense categories, was a major factor in the 1953-1954 recession.

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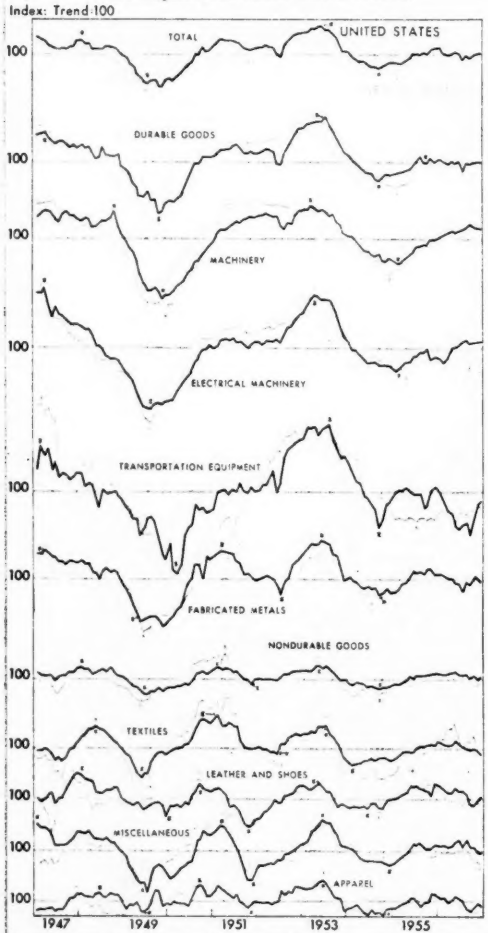
Housing Accomplishments in 1957, ***page 5.***
Capital Expenditures by Massachusetts Manufacturers Remain High, ***page 6.***

Measuring Employment Cycles

To compare employment cycles in the region and in the nation, each must be carefully measured. This requires eliminating, as far as possible, the influence of non-cyclical factors on the data. After standard statistical techniques have been used to remove seasonal variation and the over-all growth or "trend" component, the data should reflect only the cyclical element plus sporadic influences. The cyclical peaks and troughs, or turning points, in manufacturing employment, are then identifiable and percentage declines from peak to trough can be figured. These results, as well as New England and United States comparisons, are shown in the chart below.

The influence of trend adjustment on the measurement of cyclical change can be illustrated by the New England textile industry. Regional textile employment declined from the 1948 peak of 307,000 to 237,000 at the 1949 trough—a drop of 22.9 per cent. During the postwar period, however, New England textiles lost an average of 1,000 jobs per month. After attributing this portion of the decline to trend, the cyclical decline is reduced to 18.7 per cent. Throughout the remaining analysis, cyclical sensitivity is discussed in terms of the relative decline with the trend factor removed. The tables and charts are also prepared on this basis.

FLUCTUATIONS IN MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT
New England and United States 1947-56



Source: Computed from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data.
Note: 1. Shaded areas represent general recessions in total U.S. manufacturing employment.
2. Asterisks mark peaks and troughs in employment series.

Fluctuations in Manufacturing Employment

Comparatively, the recessions in New England were somewhat longer in duration than in the United States—by ten months in 1947-1949 and six months in 1953-1954. In the first recession, the early 1947 peak of New England durables was responsible for the longer duration of the regional manufacturing decline. Employment in both areas reached its lowest point in July 1949. In the latter recession, the employment peaks of both areas occurred in May 1953. But longer slumps in New England durables lengthened the regional manufacturing decline.

In the post-Korean nondurables recession of 1951, the decline was two months shorter in New England than in the rest of the country.

New England manufacturing employment declined more severely in the 1947-1949 and 1951 recessions than the rest of the United States, but experienced an approximately equal decline in the 1953-1954 recession. In the first recession, both "hard-goods" and "soft-goods" dropped more sharply in the region than in the rest of the nation—25.7 per cent and 20.4 per cent respectively for durables and 8.7 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively for nondurables.[1]

In the 1951 "recession" New England "soft-goods" declined twice as much as their national counterpart—8.8 per cent compared to 4.5 per cent. "Hard-goods" employment remained steady.

In the 1953-1954 recession, the regional employment decline was likewise more severe in nondurables—8.7 per cent compared to 6.0 per cent. In contrast to 1947-1949, however, the regional decline in durables was less severe than in the rest of the nation—16.3 per cent compared to 17.7 per cent. The improved performance of New England "hard-goods," as well as total manufacturing, may be traced largely to the shift in the complexion of defense

[1]Labor disputes in coal and steel industries during October and November 1949, caused employment to be lower than it otherwise would have been. Therefore, the lowest "non-strike" months were selected as the trough months. The same procedure was followed in 1952.

TABLE I

EMPLOYMENT DECLINES

New England and United States, 1947-1956
Adjusted for Seasonal Variation and Trend
Per Cent Change from Peaks to Troughs

Industry	1947-1949		1951-1952		1953-1954	
	U.S.	N.E.	U.S.	N.E.	U.S.	N.E.
All Manufacturing	**12.9**	**14.5**	**(b)**	**4.6**	**12.1**	**12.2**
Durable Goods	**20.4**	**25.7**	**(b)**	**(b)**	**17.7**	**16.3**
Ordnance	86.0	32.9	(b)	(b)	64.6	38.8
Lumber & Wood Products	16.2	29.6	8.1	(b)	20.6	14.5c
Furniture & Fixtures	13.7	11.8	11.9	9.1	11.9	14.4
Stone, Clay, & Glass	11.1	17.6	8.6	17.0	9.7	9.0
Primary Metals	17.1	23.8	2.6	5.9	16.2	13.6
Fabricated Metals	18.6	20.6	7.0	5.6	14.9	15.1
Machinery	23.0	29.6	(b)	(b)	16.5	19.3c
Electrical Machinery	31.8	35.2	(b)	(b)	19.9	20.2
Transportation Equip't	32.2	40.7	(b)	(b)	25.5	23.1
Instruments	28.2	32.3	(b)	(b)	15.7	14.7
Nondurable Goods	**7.5**	**8.7**	**4.5**	**8.8**	**6.0**	**8.7**
Food	5.9	8.7	(b)	(b)	5.2	9.1
Tobacco	17.3	(a)	(b)	(a)	6.9	(a)
Textiles	12.9	18.7	10.9	18.0	10.4	19.0
Apparel	4.9	7.4	7.2	6.8	9.4	9.8
Paper	11.9	15.9	7.0	4.9	4.4	3.5
Printing & Allied Products	3.8	4.8	(b)	4.2	(b)	3.9
Chemicals	14.5	16.0	2.1	(b)	6.8	5.8c
Rubber Products	21.9	21.7	4.3	8.8	21.4	18.0
Leather & Shoes	11.7	8.8	11.8	13.6	6.6	8.4
Petroleum & Coal	9.9	(a)	(b)	(a)	5.5c	(a)
Miscellaneous	18.5	13.8	14.2	16.2	12.1	9.0

a) Included in Miscellaneous.

(b) No discernible recession.

(c) No peak in 1953, so highest point in 1953 selected as peak for figuring per cent decline. If 1951 high is taken as peak, percentages would be as follows: N.E. chemical 7.1%; N.E. machinery 21.4%; N.E. lumber & wood 20.4%.

Source: Computed from Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

procurement. The New England defense industries are concentrated in electronics and aircraft engines. Spending cutbacks were not as sharp for these as for many other defense items.

Further analysis reveals that the most important industries in New England are also the ones which tend to be more sensitive to business cycle movements than comparable national industries. It was also found that the differences in the timing of cyclical turning points in individual industries tend to have a dampening effect on the severity of total manufacturing employment declines. Thus, the more diversified an economy the more opportunity for timing differences to reduce total employment declines during business recessions.

Fluctuations in Durable-Goods Industries

Of the 10 United States durable-goods industries, all but lumber and wood products had less severe declines in employment during 1953-1954 than 1947-1949. Taking the average of the two postwar recessions, the greatest employment declines have occurred in ordnance (75%), transportation equipment (29%), electrical machinery (26%), instruments (22%), and nonelectrical machinery (20%). These same industries have been the most sensitive in New England.

Eight of New England's 10 durable-goods industries had more severe declines in 1947-1949 than the comparable United States industries. Only two, ordnance and furniture, accounting for less than five per cent of the total, declined less severely than their national counterparts. By contrast, in 1953-1954, six New England durables had less severe employment declines than comparable United States industries. These six account for only one-third of the total New England durable-goods employment. Yet, the reduced sensitivity of these industries was an important factor in making New England durable-goods employment decline slightly less than the United States figure.

Despite this improvement in the New England durable-goods sensitivity patterns, a disturbing element remains. The durable-goods industries most important to New England are also the ones which tend to be more sensitive than their national counterparts. Machinery, electrical machinery, fabricated metals, and transportation equipment constitute over 70 per cent of regional "hard-goods" employment. The average employment decline of the New England sectors of these industries was 31 per cent in 1947-1949 and 20 per cent in 1953-1954. On the national level these four industries had employment declines of 26 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. Those states and metropolitan areas in New England where these industries are concentrated may continue to suffer relatively severe employment fluctuations compared to the regional or national economy.

Fluctuations in Nondurable-Goods Industries

Unlike durable-goods, employment in most nondurable-goods industries reflects three distinct recession periods since 1947. The additional one occurred in 1951-1952. In all United States and New England nondurable-goods industries except chemicals, rubber, and food products, the 1951-1952 employment recession is substantially as severe or more severe than either the 1947-1949 or 1953-1954 recessions.

The greatest declines in United States "soft-goods" industries were experienced in rubber products (22%), miscellaneous products (15%), and textiles (11%).[2] In New England, the sharpest declines were in rubber products (22%), textiles (19%), miscellaneous products (13%), and leather and shoes (10%).

Six nondurable-goods industries, accounting

[2] For purposes of this article miscellaneous products are considered in the nondurables group for both the U. S. and N. E.

for 75 per cent of the regional nondurables employment, fluctuated more violently than their national counterparts in 1947-1949. Of course, New England textiles were considerably more sensitive than the national industry. In addition, New England apparel, paper, chemicals, printing, and food products industries declined much more than their national counterparts.

In 1953-1954 only four "soft-goods" industries declined more severely than the national industries—textiles, food products, leather, and apparel. These industries, however, account for almost 60 per cent of New England nondurables total. The same situation is repeated in the special nondurables "recession" of 1951-1952.

If the textile fluctuations are removed from the nondurables picture, the New England comparison with the United States improves somewhat. The declines for "soft-goods" (excluding textiles) are 5.2 per cent for New England and 5.4 per cent for the United States in 1947-1949; 5.2 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively for 1953-1954. It may be concluded that textiles were chiefly responsible for the higher New England nondurables 1947-1949 decline, but that other "soft-goods" industries must share the responsibility for the severity of the 1951-1952 and 1953-1954 recessions.

The greater instability of durable-goods industries compared to nondurables is apparent from the accompanying chart. But it should also be noted that average hourly earnings for production workers are somewhat higher in durable-goods than in nondurable-goods industries. For the United States in 1956, average hourly earnings were $2.10 in durable-goods and $1.81 in nondurables.[3] The New England earnings rate is slightly below the national level, but the differential between durables and nondurables workers is about the same.

Cyclical Timing, Sensitivity, and Diversification

Employment movements in the 1947-1949 recession provide a good illustration of the extent to which the timing of the cyclical turning points in individual industries affects the magnitude of change in employment aggregates. Total manufacturing employment in the United States declined 12.9 per cent during 1947-1949; but if the peaks and troughs of all United States individual industries had occurred simultaneously, manufacturing employment would have declined 18.1 per cent. Thus differential timing of the individual industry fluctuations dampened the aggregate decline by one-third.

The same was true in New England. If all industry peaks and troughs had occurred simultaneously, the decline would have been 20.5 per cent, rather than the actual 14.5 per cent. The same principle operated in 1953-1954, but with less magnitude because of the greater consistency of timing in individual industries.

The foregoing analysis suggests that an increase in employment stability may result from industrial diversification, at least for minor cycles as experienced in the past decade. Aggregate employment fluctuations would be dampened in the well-diversified community because of different magnitudes of decline and different timing sequences in the employment cycles of the individual industries.

Writing in 1951, seven economists who had studied New England's economy reported to the President's Council of Economic Advisors that "Where a job center is heavily dependent on one or two industries, steps should be immediately taken to attract expanding industries."

The trends in diversification and stability of employment in New England's metropolitan areas will be discussed in a subsequent *Business Review* article.

This material prepared by Professor Frank W. Gery, Chairman of the Economics Department, Eastern Nazarene College, is related to and an amplification of his doctoral thesis, "Cyclical Sensitivity Among New England Standard Metropolitan Areas: A Test of Certain Hypotheses," presented at Boston University and in completion of a research grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

TABLE II
INDUSTRIAL COMPOSITION
New England and United States, 1956
Monthly Averages

Industry	UNITED STATES		NEW ENGLAND	
	Empl. (thous.)	Per Cent Mfg. Empl.	Empl. (thous.)	Per Cent Mfg. Empl.
All Manufacturing	**16,893.0**	**100**	**1,503.8**	**100**
Durable Goods	**9,294.5**	**55.0**	**747.2**	**49.7**
Ordnance	130.6	.8	15.1	1.0
Lumber & Wood Products	724.0	4.3	42.5	2.8
Furniture and Fixtures	376.0	2.2	21.5	1.4
Stone, Clay, and Glass	569.2	3.4	24.0	1.6
Primary Metals	1,309.6	7.8	58.2	3.9
Fabricated Metals	1,116.4	6.6	106.1	7.1
Machinery	1,723.6	10.2	185.8	12.4
Electrical Machinery	1,211.5	7.2	140.5	9.3
Transportation Equip't	1,795.1	10.6	105.5	7.0
Instruments	338.5	2.0	48.0	3.2
Nondurable Goods	**7,598.3**	**45.0**	**756.6**	**50.3**
Food	1,577.8	9.3	68.7	4.6
Tobacco	100.9	.6	.9	—
Textiles	1,050.7	6.2	168.0	11.2
Apparel	1,212.1	7.2	88.4	5.9
Paper	568.4	3.4	74.9	5.0
Printing & Allied Products	854.3	5.1	62.9	4.2
Chemicals	834.5	4.9	32.3	2.1
Rubber Products	275.9	1.6	46.6	3.1
Leather and Shoes	374.2	2.2	112.2	7.5
Petroleum & Coal	253.2	1.5	3.3	.2
Miscellaneous	496.3	2.9	98.4	6.5

Note: Individual figures do not necessarily add to total because of rounding.
Source: Computed from Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

[3] Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

HOUSING ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1957

New England, like the entire nation, saw many new homes built this year. The million or so new homes started in the nation would provide enough housing for a large new metropolis if all had been built in one area. But the number looks frustratingly small to the country's builders who recall 1955 when slightly more than 1.3 million nonfarm housing units were built.

The decline from the 1955 level was not surprising. In the early years of the decade, home-building activity was struggling to meet not only the demand of normal family growth, but also a demand that had been repressed and deferred during years of war and defense effort. That unusual demand has now been largely met. There was also an ample supply of loanable funds available for mortgage credit during those years. Recently, however, real estate credit has become less readily available as other investment opportunities have successfully bid lenders' funds away from mortgages.

New nonfarm housing starts in the first nine months of 1957 were 10 per cent fewer than in the comparable period of 1956. Privately financed starts declined 12 per cent. Seasonally adjusted monthly figures suggest that March was the turning point in the downward trend which began in early 1955. The seasonally adjusted rate of private nonfarm starts advanced from March to May, and since that time has been maintained at an annual rate of one million units.

The value of new private nonfarm residential construction put into place during the first nine months of 1957 lagged seven per cent behind the 1956 pace. Increased construction costs kept the decline in values below the decline in number of homes started. A low figure of $16.0 billion in the seasonally adjusted rate was reached in May. By September the annual rate had climbed to a level of $16.8 billion.

The value of new residential construction contracts in the nation for the first nine months of 1957, as reported by F. W. Dodge Corp., was within one per cent of the comparable 1956 figure. Contracts awarded in July, August, and September exceeded those for the corresponding months of 1956, both in the number of dwelling units and in their value.

The trend of residential construction contracts reported for New England is more favorable. In dollar value the nine months total was four per cent higher than a year ago. Starting with June each succeeding month in 1957 was higher than the previous year. In terms of units, however, the nine months total was still 11 per cent behind the comparable 1956 total.

One-family homes still account for the great majority of new residential units, but percentage-wise the real growth in 1957 has been in two-family homes and in apartment buildings. The relative changes from 1956 to 1957 in the value of new one-family home construction, the number of units involved, and the amount of floor space provided, disclose tendencies for the newer homes to be not only larger, but also costlier. These tendencies are more pronounced in New England than in the country at large.

Construction costs vary according to location and type of residence being built. Various construction cost indexes showed increases from mid-1956 to mid-1957 ranging from two to five per cent. Wholesale prices of building materials averaged one per cent higher, with lower lumber prices offset by higher prices for paint, hardware, cement, and asphalt roofing. Union basic wage rates in the building trades averaged five per cent higher in October than a year earlier.

Along with higher construction costs and other factors, more stringent financing terms have served as a deterrent to an immediate resumption of the 1955 boom in home building. This is not to say that new mortgage funds are unavailable. Outstanding debt on nonfarm, one to four family properties rose by $9.6 billion, or 10 per cent, in the 12 month period to June 30, 1957. But builders, professional and individual, are no longer finding lenders anxious to extend credit on terms of no down payment, 30 years to maturity, and 4½ per cent interest. Saving has not kept pace with total credit demand, and with this relative shortage of funds the mortgage borrower has been obliged to compete more vigorously for the lenders' dollars.

Rates on conventional type mortgages are now 5½ per cent in Boston, six per cent in some outlying parts of New England, and even higher in other areas. Mortgage money is usually available when the yield is competitively attractive to the lender, although some institutions are at or close to legal or self-imposed loan limits. In this competitive situation the relative unattractiveness of the legally limited interest rates on VA and FHA type loans is evident. Housing starts during the first nine months of 1957 were 50 per cent less under VA, and 21 per cent less under FHA than during the comparable period of 1956. Those financed by conventional type mortgages were six per cent more.

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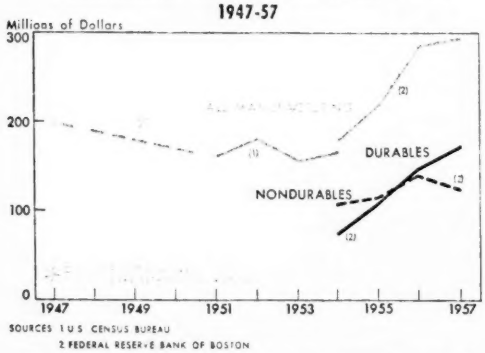
Capital Expenditures by Massachusetts Manufacturers Remain High

The high level of capital investment by Massachusetts manufacturers in 1956 was sustained in 1957. Total capital expenditures this year will probably reach $295 million, representing an increase of four per cent over last year. In contrast to the increase of 18 per cent last year over 1955, the rate of industrial expansion has slowed down considerably. This phenomenon is by no means peculiar to Massachusetts. According to the latest estimate made jointly by the U. S. Department of Commerce and the Securities and Exchange Commission, capital expenditures for the nation as a whole have also slowed down from the increase of 31 per cent achieved last year to an eight per cent gain this year.

Durable-goods industries continued their trend of expansion. In 1956, they spent $147 million; this year they may spend $172 million. The optimism was not shared by nondurable-goods industries, whose outlays declined from $132 million last year to $123 million in 1957. The most significant increases in expenditures took place in the nonelectrical machinery, transportation equipment, and instrument industries. The electrical machinery, leather, and textile industries spent much less than in 1956.

MASSACHUSETTS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TREND
1947-57

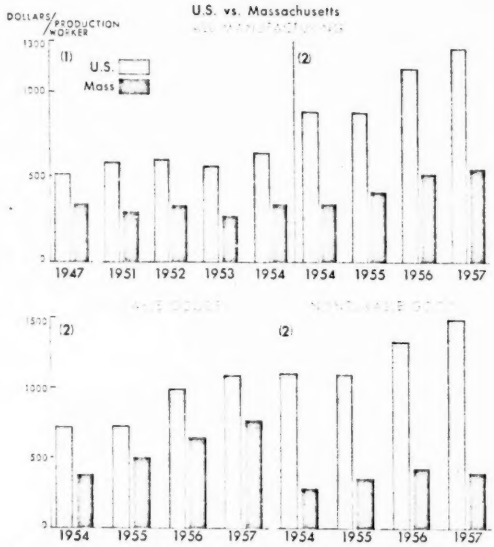


SOURCES 1 U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
2 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF BOSTON

Capital expenditures per production worker in Massachusetts continued to lag behind the nation as a whole. In the durable-goods industries the gap narrowed a little further, while in the nondurable-goods industries the gap widened. This reflects some shift in the industrial structure in Massachusetts, as well as the fact that Massachusetts is still dominated by long-established, stable industries.

Outlays for new plant construction were 53 per cent greater than in 1956 for all manufacturing industries. In the durable-goods industries the increase was 66 per cent, and in the nondurable-goods industries 34 per cent. In contrast, expenditures on equipment and machinery were lower by nine per cent. Long-range expectations among manufacturers and investors seem to be stronger than their confidence in the immediate future.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES PER PRODUCTION WORKER
1947-1957
U.S. vs. Massachusetts



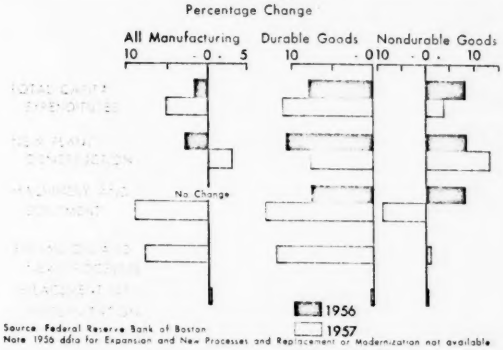
Sources (1) U.S. Census Bureau
(2) U.S. figure computed from U.S. Depts. of Commerce and Labor data. Mass. data computed by Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

The sentiment of manufacturers since the spring has been less optimistic than last year. The spring estimate for 1957 capital expenditures by all industries has been revised downward by five per cent. Durable-goods industries revised their spending plans downward by 11 per cent, and nondurable-goods industries made revisions upward by nearly four per cent. As shown in the accompanying chart, the revisions represent a larger cutback (and a smaller increase in the case of nondurable-goods) than the revisions made by manufacturers in late 1956. Nevertheless, there are two notable exceptions. Plant construction expenditures were revised upward since the spring, a significant fact that reflects the short-run nature of pessimism. Replacement and modernization plans were carried out closely, as was expected from the nature of the technological necessities of the plans.

The figures reported must be read with a grain of salt. All capital expenditure estimates are based on questionnaire surveys, and are sub-

ject to sampling, forecasting, and other errors. Earlier studies have demonstrated that estimates based on capital expenditure plans as reported by a sample of firms are generally below actual spending, except during recessions. In particular, the spring and fall estimates have had to be statistically adjusted because the sample on which the fall estimate is based is quite small and heavily loaded with large firms. These firms are found to be more optimistic than small ones when making their preliminary plans in the spring. A downward bias is consequently introduced into the "revised" estimate in the fall, and the magnitude of cutback from spring plans is quite likely an exaggeration.

OCTOBER REVISIONS OF SPRING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLANS
1956 and 1957



Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Note: 1956 data for Expansion and New Processes and Replacement or Modernization not available.

The typical reasons given by manufacturers for the curtailment of capital expenditures or modification of earlier expansion plans were lower earnings, a dim business outlook, and delays in the delivery of machinery and materials. There is no indication of a drastic reversal in business attitudes. Lower than expected earnings, although the most frequently mentioned factor, were cited by less than seven per cent of the firms included in the sample. Delays in the delivery of machinery and materials were less important factors than last year, and affected mainly the larger firms. Significantly, neither inflation nor the tight money market was mentioned with regularity by either small or large firms. Consistent with findings of other surveys, most of the downward revisions were made by large firms. As a matter of fact, the similarity of this pattern of reasoning to that found in earlier years is strong evidence that the basic forces in the business world have not changed.

Timing seems to be an important factor in revising spring plans. In dollar terms, 86 per cent of unfilled spending plans were postponed, while 14 per cent were cancelled. Unfortunately, no corresponding figures are available for other years to permit comparisons.

The sentiment of greater caution is exemplified by preliminary plans for capital expenditures in 1958. A majority of firms, especially those in durable-goods industries, expect to spend less next year than this year. This is a reversal of last year's findings. However, most plans are still in a formative stage, and subject to what happens in the next few months.

EXPECTATIONS OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES NEXT YEAR

	Firms Expecting Increases Next Year	Firms Expecting Decreases Next Year	Firms Expecting the Same Expenditures Next Year
All Manufacturing Industries	28%	51%	21%
Durable-Goods Industries	32	57	11
Nondurable-Goods Industries	23	38	31

Whether the short-run pessimism is justified or not, the long-run trend of expansion of Massachusetts industries has not been dented by the performance in 1957. Not only was the investment level of last year sustained, but the basis for long-run growth has been further strengthened. There was a large increase in plant construction expenditures over that of last year. Relative to replacement expenditures, the proportion of money spent for expansion has also risen every year since 1954. Remembering that construction of new plants generally precedes the instalment of machinery and equipment, and that expansion widens the basis of industrial structure to be replaced and modernized in the long run, future growth in capital expenditures may be expected.

REPLACEMENT AND MODERNIZATION vs. EXPANSION
(Percentage of total capital expenditures)
1954-1957

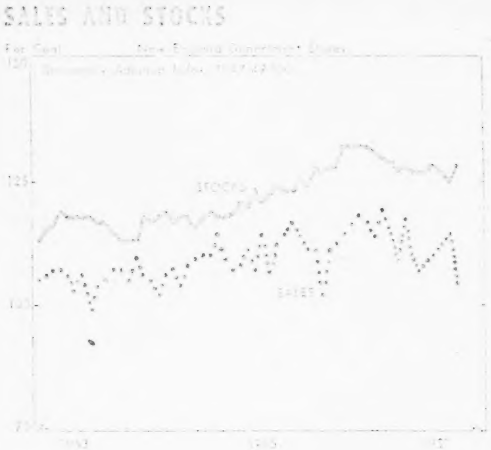
		MASSACHUSETTS		UNITED STATES	
		Replacement	Expansion	Replacement	Expansion
1954	All Manufacturing	64.8	35.2	60	40
1955	All Manufacturing	54.8	45.2	55	45
1956	All Manufacturing	50.7	49.3	47	53
1957 (plans)	All Manufacturing	49.5	50.5	46	54

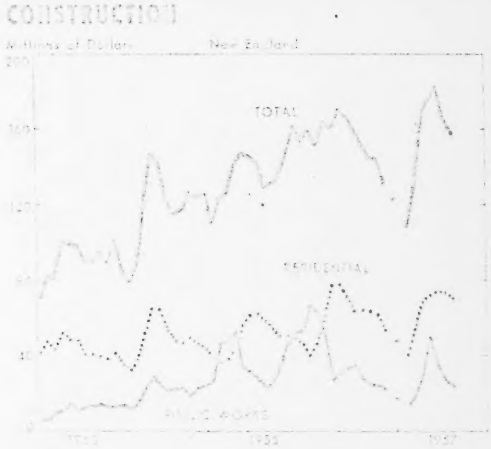
Source: Massachusetts figures are based on Federal Reserve Bank surveys, United States figures are based on SEC-CBE surveys.

Note 1: The 1957 Massachusetts and United States figures are not directly comparable. The former are based on revised plans reported in October, the latter preliminary plans of March.

Technical Note

The latest estimates of 1957 capital expenditures for Massachusetts manufacturers are based on reports submitted by 150 of the 162 firms selected for our October survey. Each of these firms also responded to an earlier survey in February, and the spending totals in each industry were projected on the relationship between their original and revised plans. The projections are then revised for the inherent biases. A brief paper describing the estimating procedures is available upon request.





MANUFACTURING INDEXES (seasonally adjusted)	MASSACHUSETTS (1950–52 = 100)			NEW ENGLAND (1950–52 = 100)			UNITED STATES (1947–49 = 100)		
		Per Cent Change from:			Per Cent Change from:			Per Cent Change from:	
	Sept. '57	Aug. '57	Sept. '56	Sept. '57	Aug. '57	Sept. '56	Sept. '57	Aug. '57	Sept. '56
All Manufacturing	117	+ 7	+ 4	118	0	+ 1	146	− 1	0
Primary Metals	103	0	−13	96	+ 1	−14	131	− 4	−12
Textiles	51	0	−12	69	0	− 9	103	+ 4	0
Leather	117	− 1	+11	115	+ 5	+11	105	0	+ 3
Paper	104	+ 3	−10	119	+ 2	− 4	161	− 1	+ 1

	NEW ENGLAND			UNITED STATES		
		Per Cent Change from:			Per Cent Change from:	
	Sept. '57	Aug. '57	Sept. '56	Sept. '57	Aug. '57	Sept. '56
BANKING AND CREDIT						
Commercial Loans ($ millions) (Weekly Reporting Member Banks)	1,574	0	+ 5	31,895	+ 1	+10
Deposits ($ millions) (Weekly Reporting Member Banks)	4,137	− 1	− 1	93,162	0	0
Check Payments ($ millions) (Selected Cities)	7,320	− 3	+11	189,297	− 1	+13
Consumer Installment Credit Outstanding (index, 1950–52 = 100)	230	+ 1	+ 8	223	0	+ 8
TRADE						
Department Store Sales (index, seas. adj. 1947–49 = 100)	104	− 9	−11	128	− 5	− 1
Department Store Stocks (index, seas. adj. 1947–49 = 100)	128	+ 2	− 3	143	0	+ 3
EMPLOYMENT, PRICES, MAN-HOURS, & EARNINGS						
Nonagricultural Employment (thousands)	3,645	0	0	53,169	+ 1	+ 2
Insured Unemployment (thousands) (excl. R. R. and Veterans programs)	96	− 4	+48	1,195	0	+21
Consumer Prices (index, 1947–49 = 100)	122.7 (Mass.)	0	+ 4	121.1	0	+ 3
Production-Worker Man-Hours (index, 1950 = 100)	92.0	+ 1	− 5	104.5	0	− 4
Weekly Earnings in Manufacturing ($)	75.05 (Mass.)	+ 1	+ 2	82.99	0	+ 1
OTHER INDICATORS						
Construction Contract Awards ($ thousands, 3-mos. moving averages)						
Total	148,743	− 5	+ 5	2,685,561	− 3	+ 1
Residential	61,563	−11	+ 3	1,200,062	− 3	+ 8
Public Works	23,422	+ 3	− 4	379,177	−11	−13
Electrical Energy Production (index, seas. adj. 1947–49 = 100)*	190.1	+ 3	+ 7	224.6	− 2	+ 3
Business Failures (number)	62	+ 2	+51	1,071	− 7	+15
New Business Incorporations (number)	639	− 8	− 1	10,526	− 7	+10

*Figure for last week of month